



# State of Utah

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October 4, 2001

TO: Internal Files

FROM: Stephen J. Demczak, Reclamation Specialist *SSD  
OK  
SM*

RE: Portal Sealing Plan, Energy West Mining, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/018-AM01H

## SUMMARY:

The permittee has submitted an amendment to be able to close (seal) portals at the Deer Creek Mine with any type of MSHA approved sealing technique. The permittee currently can close portals off by only double block seals. This amendment gives the permittee a choice which sealing method is best to use on a case-by-case situation. The permittee is presently using these MSHA approved methods in the underground working.

## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

## RECLAMATION PLAN

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

### Analysis:

The permittee has submitted an amendment to install any type of MSHA approved seals in the portals of the Deer Creek mine. The permit now states only double block MSHA approved seals can be used to seal the portals. Any seal that is MSHA approved must meet the same standards. Therefore, there is no major difference in the integrity of the seal.

TECHNICAL MEMO

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**Findings:**

The information provided meets the minimum requirements of this section of the R645 Coal Rules.

**MINE OPENINGS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.13, 817.14, 817.15; R645-301-513, -301-529, -301-551, -301-631, -301-748, -301-765, -301-748.

**Analysis:**

The permittee has submitted an amendment to use any type of MSHA approved seal in the portals of the Deer Creek Mine. Each different type of seals being MSHA approval must meet the same criteria before being approved. Currently, the permittee is using several different types of MSHA approved seals underground. Seals which are located underground must withstand severe environmental conditions than portal seals. The seals underground are under heavier groundcover causing greater pressures to be placed on the seal.

**Findings:**

The information provided meets the minimum requirements of this section of the R645 Coal Rules.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The information provided meets the minimum requirements to close the portals. This amendment is recommended for approval.